

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 are currently pending in the application. Claims 10, 12, 13 and 29 are amended in this response. The allowance of claims 1-9, 11, 22-28 and 35-49 is noted with appreciation. Reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 10, 12-21 AND 29-34 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims 10, 12-21 and 29-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claimed the invention.

More particularly, claim 10 was rejected because the phrase “sidewall contacts” lacked antecedent basis. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 7 that sets forth a plurality of sidewall contacts, thereby providing the appropriate antecedent basis for the phrase in claim 10. Consequently, claim 10 is believed to be definite.

Claim 12 and its depending claims were rejected because the term “substrate” in claim 12 lacked antecedent basis. Claim 12 has been amended to eliminate the term “substrate”, wherein claim 12 now recites “the base plate is operable to transfer thermal energy from the semiconductor platform to the base plate.” Consequently, claim 12 and its depending claims are believed to be definite.

Claim 13 was rejected because a phrase associated with the “third electrically conductive layer” was confusing. Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the third electrically conductive layer is over the second electrically conductive layer and portions thereof are electrically connected to respective portions of the second electrically conductive layer. Accordingly, claim 13 is believed to be definite.

Claim 29 was rejected because the phrase “the semiconductor substrate” lacked antecedent basis. Claim 29 has been amended to replace the phrase “the semiconductor substrate” with “the semiconductor platform.” Claim 29 is now believed to be definite.

The above claim amendments render the claims at issue definite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

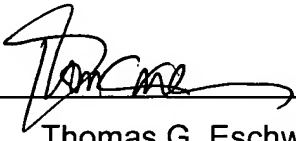
II. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, EATNP152US.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: February 15, 2005


Christine Gillroy